



Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan

*Scott Bass, Masato Oka, Jill Norton, Robert Morris *Deceased**

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Thirty years ago, when compared to the U.S., England, France, and Sweden, Japan had the lowest life expectancy for males and females. Today, Japan has the highest life expectancy and is the world's most rapidly aging society. *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* captures the vitality of Japanese policymakers and the challenges they face in shaping a modern society responding to its changing needs. The rapid transition to an aging society poses a set of complex policy and resource dilemmas; the responses taken in Japan are of great value to policymakers, professionals, and students in the fields of gerontology, Asian and Japanese studies, sociology, public policy, administration and management, and anthropology in other industrial aging societies. Readers of *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* will discover the array of social and economic implications that comes with an increasingly aged society. Such a change in demographics affects pension expenditures and pension contributions, capital formation and savings rates, health costs, service systems, tax bases, labor pools, career counseling, training, advertising, and marketing. This book does not stop with these topics, however. Readers also learn about:

- how older Japanese workers are staying employed and employable
 - policies in Japan for a smooth transition from work to retirement
 - Japan's Silver Human Resource Centers
 - the new direction of health services in Japan
 - the Japanese financing system for elderly health care
 - the expansion of formalized in-home services for Japan's aged
 - Japanese housing policy and the concept of universal design
 - the Gold Plan, a comprehensive ten-year plan to promote health care and welfare for the aged
 - the concept of ikigai--promoting feelings of purpose and self-worth in the aged
- Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* is one of only a handful of books prepared in English by American and Japanese authors for an international audience about aging and social policy in Japan. The book's recent collection of articles by leading scholars on the subject makes it a unique and timely source of information. Above all, *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* makes it clear that the rest of the world has many valuable lessons to learn by studying Japan's approach to its rapidly aging society.

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